

SCHOOLS FORUM

2018/19 School Block Consultation January 2018

1 Purpose of the Report

This report is to consult the Schools Forum on the Wokingham Schools' view of the changes in the School Block factors for 2018/19, following the close of the consultation jointly set by the Council and the School Task and Finish Group.

2 Suggested Actions

The Schools Forum is asked to note and comment on the outcome from the schools consultation on the changes to the School Block factors for 2018/19.

3 Background

Due to the many changes from 2017/18 to 2018/19 the Council set up a Task and Finish Group (T&F) to support the Council in setting a fair budget for 2018/19. The T&F Group members are a Primary Head Teacher, a Secondary Head Teacher, School Business Managers, Interim Director of Children Services and Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Senior Finance specialists.

This Group looked at various different financial models and options in determining how much to allocate through the various factors in the formula. The aim was to deliver a strategic decision on how funding is distributed to the schools while moving closer to the National Funding Formula (NFF). This is in line with the Government expectation that Local Authorities (LA) move closer to the NFF over the 2 years that the Council will remain responsible for setting school budgets.

With this in mind, the changes made aim to set a budget that would minimise the losses to schools and to recognise that some schools in WBC have had reductions in funding year on year due to the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).

Please see the following changes:

No.	Description - changes	17-18 budget	18-19 budget	NFF	Comment
1.	Primary Prior attainment	226.07	500	1,050	Moving toward NFF
2.	Lump sum reduction	175,000	150,000	110,000	Moving toward NFF
3.	Capping	0%	3%	3%	Move to the NFF
4.	Minimum Funding Guarantee	-1.5%	0%	0% to -1.5%	To stop any school losing funding per pupil
5.	Primary & Secondary Ratio adjustment	1:1.27	1:1.28	1:1.29	Moving toward the NFF

4 **Financial Summary**

Please see Appendix A consultation document on pages 9 to 11.

Please see Appendix B the response to the consultation.

5 **Conclusion**

The Department of Education (DFE) regulations says that any changes to the funding formula needs to be consulted with all Schools, Academies and the Schools Forum. The LA is complying with it's obligation to ensure all schools have a say on the changes make and Schools Forum and LA considers those views. .

Coral Miller
Interim School Finance Manager
January 2018

John Ogden
Interim Head of Finance
January 2018